

CLAIMS

1. Separating apparatus comprising a separating chamber in which cyclonic separation is able to take place, an inlet to the separating chamber and a shroud
5 comprising a wall having a multiplicity of through-holes forming an outlet from the separating chamber, the shroud further comprising a lip extending from the wall into the separating chamber, characterized in that lip has a plurality of apertures therethrough.
2. Separating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the separating chamber has
10 a longitudinal axis and the lip extends substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis.
3. Separating apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the wall and the lip are generally cylindrical.
- 15 4. Separating apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the apertures are spaced from the through-holes by an imperforate portion of the wall and/or lip.
5. Separating apparatus as claimed in claims 3 and 4, wherein the breadth of the
20 imperforate portion of the wall and/or lip is at least one tenth of the diameter of the wall.
6. Separating apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the breadth of the imperforate portion of the wall and/or lip is substantially equal to one tenth of the diameter of the wall.
- 25 7. Separating apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the combined area of the apertures at the upstream end thereof is no less than the area of the inlet to the separating chamber.

8. Separating apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the combined area of the apertures on the upstream side thereof is greater than the area of the inlet to the separating chamber.

5 9. Separating apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the length of the lip is at least one tenth of the diameter of the wall of the shroud.

10. Separating apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the length of the lip is at least one fifth of the diameter of the wall of the shroud.

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11. Separating apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the apertures are tapered, the upstream end of each aperture being of smaller cross-sectional area than the downstream end thereof.

15 12. Separating apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a second wall is provided radially inwardly of the lip such that a cavity is formed between the wall, the second wall and the lip.

20 13. Separating apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the length of the lip is at least as great as the distance between the lip and the second wall.

14. Separating apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the separating chamber is substantially cylindrical in cross-section so as to form a relatively low-efficiency cyclone.

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15. Separating apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a tapering cyclone positioned downstream of the shroud.

30 16. Separating apparatus as claimed in claims 14 and 15, wherein the tapering cyclone has a higher efficiency than the relatively low-efficiency cyclone.

17. Separating apparatus substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the embodiments shown in Figures 2 to 4 of the accompanying drawings.

18. A vacuum cleaner incorporating separating apparatus as claimed in any one of
5 the preceding claims.